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iteratively calculating updated significance values for each entity, based on the affinities and on the significance values prior to the iterative update, until a predetermined condition is reached; and

obtaining the useful information based on the significance values after the final iteration of the [step] act of iteratively calculating.

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Canc'l.

Please add new Claim 12 as follows:

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12.   A method for eliciting information, useful to a user, from first and second collections of entities or resources with explicit and/or implicit, static and/or dynamic relations therebetween, the method comprising the acts of:

obtaining the first collection of entities and the second collection of entities;

obtaining affinity values, including, for each given one of the entities, a respective affinity value for the given entity and each respective one of the other entities of the collection, the affinity values not being constrained to be symmetric;

initializing significance values for each of the entities;

iteratively calculating updated significance values for each entity, based on the affinities and on the significance values prior to the iterative update, until a predetermined condition is reached; and

obtaining the useful information based on the significance values after the final iteration of the act of iteratively calculating.

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Please add new Claim 13 as follows:

13. A method for eliciting information, useful to a user, from first and second collections of entities or resources with explicit and/or implicit, static and/or dynamic relations therebetween, the method comprising the acts of:

obtaining the first collection of entities and the second collection of entities;

obtaining affinity values, including, for each given one of the entities, a respective affinity value for the given entity and each respective one of the other entities of the collection, the affinity values not being based on content of the entities alone;

initializing significance values for each of the entities;

iteratively calculating updated significance values for each entity, based on the affinities and on the significance values prior to the iterative update, until a predetermined condition is reached; and

obtaining the useful information based on the significance values after the final iteration of the act of iteratively calculating.